Dear Dick, 4/27/76

This is not merely a medical good-news report, although it is that and I begin with that.

I saw the vascular man this afternoon. Driving there and back and to and from the lab for blood-tests this morning I had time for too little thinking about other matters.

He reiterated that the ~~ex~~ venous damage is permanent and irreversible, to which I adjusted long ago. And that I am to avoid falling, hurting my legs in any way, dehydration, etc.

What is good is that he says my circulation has improved, markedly in the right leg and enough to note in the left. There apparently is also a permanent damage to one of the two arteries in the left leg but he says the remaining artery, if protected, will be enough.

My vigorous walking when possible apparently has paid off. He can see the enlarged veins as I was sure I did. Now I know one of the reasons Dr. Segal recommended these Jobst supports. It is to force deep circulation rather than allowing the superficial veins alone to enlarge. The only time I don t wear them is when swimming or lying down.

He okayed my getting an exercycle and I will. Lil had the idea. The GP wanted me to ride a bike (in the mountains yet where walking takes the breath!). He says no, I'm not to fall or take the risk. When I get the exercycle, which will probably be this week, when I get up every half hour to move around I'll probably use it.

My impression is that I'm about as good as one could expect in his opinion. He is, in fact, more optimistic than Dr. Segal was and told me it is not necessary to return for four months.

Two things were on my mind while driving. I have an added interest in both because they can mean what we will now need, the means to pay new and for us large bills. I have to put a new roof on the house. What we have put aside for reprinting will not cover the cost. The roofer will trust me for the rest.

One of these is what you had in mind by the papers on the spying on King by the FBI. The other is the Lydia story of which I sent you the Rosa Guy proposal.

There are two special problems I can see with an unrestrictive approach to the King papers. One is that there will be special problems that would probably defeat the effort if this were to include the intimate details of his personal life. This also would antagonize blacks and would react against the publisher. Most non-blacks would find this in bad taste at least. Another is sheer cost. There are at least 98 volumes each three inches thick. Forgetting that the personal details are immune under the law, we are talking about something like $10,000 in xeroxing costs.

We did not discuss this. If you had in mind only or mostly this personal stuff I'm not interested. If you had in mind what can be a spectacular study of the Nazi-like abuse of power and what it meant, then I think the end product could be a book with a long hardback life on the multitudinous campuses alone. This could be an unprecedented study that is not likely to be repeated again -ever - and one with a very large and broad popular appeal. While I would not want to estimate the attractiveness among blacks, I would believe that the college generation, blacks and whites both, would materially augment the general-readership market with all the interest there now is in federal dirty-works.

On Lydia's story (she is known as Leeda), if Geis has lost his interest and if from what I sent you you see no other, let me know and I'll make other efforts. The proposal, which has to be short, eliminates some magnificently dramatic, emotional stuff all of which is actuality, not fiction....I'm not impatient. But I also don't want an impatient roofer.

There is a Strangelovian tale in those new CIA documents I started to read when I was there. I mentioned it before I finished that set of about 10% of what I got.

Best,